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Orleans. K1C 1X4

Dr. Steve Corber,
Ottawa-Carleton Regional
District Health Unit,
4th fl-495 Richmond Rd.,
Ottawa.

K2A 4A4

March 28, 1989

Dear Dr. Corber,

I'm writing to further explore the concerns of people intermittently disabled by pollution, and by other exposures to natural and synthetic chemicals.

As you would know, there was a report done for the provincial government, tabled September 1985, which made thirty recommendations concerning the environmentally sensitive. One of those recommendations concerned education in the Public Health sector about our needs.

As you would also know, our concerns relating to local pesticide use were referred to your office September 5th, 1985, by the then Minister of Health, Murray Elston.

Would you outline

- 1) What steps you have taken to further understand concerns of this group, other than stimulating ill informed and therefore unproductive debate amongst University of Ottawa medical students?
- 2) What action has resulted from your discussions with people affected?
- 3) How you will act to protect the environmentally sensitive from pesticide use in built up areas this spring? One suggestion, given to your office four years ago, was simply to call a news conference to suggest that persons using pesticides in built up areas warn their neighbours before doing so, so that any environmentally sensitive individuals living nearby could take steps to avoid unnecessary exposures.

Exposures to pesticides, paint fumes, roofing tar

operations, office building pollution and sick building syndrome in hospitals all have public health implications, and each contribute to disabilities in some three hundred families identified as having members who are sensitive to such exposures.

I apologize for not attending a meeting organized last summer. The only reason I can give is that I have been so dismayed by your apparent willingness to allow the serious suffering of members of this disabled group to continue that I felt participation in the meeting should be left to other representatives of the concern. But as your continued failure to act has resulted in the statistical certainty of birth defects, other disabilities, and suicides (at least one documented), I feel it would be irresponsible not to try again.

I hope you can act on one of the above-mentioned concerns, particularly the idea of pesticide users warning their neighbours, in the immediate future.

Sincerely,

Chris Brown
(613) 837 7173

cc. Therese Legault, Ontario Human Rights Commission
Fiona Faucher, Regional Health Committee
Ed Campbell, Regional Health Committee